

Instructional Quality Commission  
Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division (CFIRD)  
State Board of Education  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street, Room 3207  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners and Board Members:

My name is Raj Salwan and I previously served as a Councilmember for the City of Fremont. I am writing in reference to the current process to revise and update the K-12 History-Social Science Frameworks, particularly the sixth and seventh grade sections.

I appreciate the Commission's work in its efforts to create a balanced and accurate curriculum, but I would urge you to do more to ensure that the important history and contributions of India, Indian civilization, and Hinduism are not erased from the Draft Framework.

Imbuing California's students, especially at this young age, with a sense of pride in their ethnic, religious, and cultural heritage is essential to their development and success in a globalized world. Removing references to India and Hinduism from the Framework will have the opposite effect and leave Hindu and Indian students confused and insecure in their identity.

It is critical that Hinduism and India are represented accurately and in an equitable manner to other cultures and religions. This will not only provide Hindu and Indian students with a proper understanding of their culture and history, but will help enrich the educational and classroom experience of California's increasingly diverse student population.

I therefore strongly urge you to consider the concerns of the Hindu and Indian American communities to be represented with dignity and equality in the textbook framework.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Raj Salwan  
Former Councilmember, City of Fremont